



Winter Sports Center & Activities



NPS Photo by Hedy Jones.



NPS Photo by Hedy Jones.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. During the year visitors can hike, bike, birdwatch, golf, fish, ski, ride the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, explore the history of the Ohio & Erie Canal on a 20-mile section of the Towpath Trail, and attend national park ranger-guided programs, concerts, art exhibits, and more.

The winter season brings great recreational opportunities for visitors to CVNP. There is cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, sledding, and ice skating. For more information call (216) 524-1497 or visit www.nps.gov/cuva or www.dayinthevalley.com.

Kendall Lake Winter Sports Center

The Winter Sports Center at Kendall Lake Shelter is the epicenter of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the Cuyahoga Valley. Cross-country ski trails and sledding and tubing areas are within easy reach of the center also.

The center, built from native chestnut and stone by the Civilian Conservation Corps, provides a rustic setting to warm up with a hot drink and relax after a day of outdoor fun. Center staff provides visitors with updated weather forecasts, area maps, and schedules of park events.

The Winter Sports Center is open different dates each year between December 26 and the end of February. Snowshoe rentals are also available at

Happy Days Visitor Center. Both facilities are closed December 25 and January 1.

Join us for cross-country ski instruction and snowshoeing programs as listed in the park's *Schedule of Events*.

The Winter Sports Center, located on Truxell Road between Akron-Cleveland and Akron-Peninsula Roads is accessible from Akron-Cleveland Road, 2 miles east of the center.

For your safety and enjoyment, the Cuyahoga Nordic Ski Patrol patrols the trails and sledding hills.

Snowshoeing

When snow depth reaches 2 inches, snowshoe rental is available at the Winter Sports Center and at Happy Days Visitor Center. There is a rental fee and a valid driver's license or credit card is required as a deposit. Snowshoes may be used on nearby trails.

When sharing a trail with cross-country ski traffic, yield to skiers and take care not to walk in existing ski tracks.



NPS Photo.

Hiking

Over 125 miles of trails are open for hiking year round. Though many trails are scenic in winter, the Ledges Trail is among the most popular.

Use caution as ice and packed snow make foot-

ing hazardous. When sharing a trail with cross-country ski traffic, yield to skiers and take care not to walk in existing ski tracks. Talk with park staff and obtain trail maps before venturing into unfamiliar areas.

Inform family or friends of your intended locations and estimated time of return. Stay on marked trails when hiking. Do not climb on the rocks at the Ledges and stay back from the bluff edges.

Cross-Country Skiing	<p>Cross-country ski rental is available at the Winter Sports Center when snow depth is 6 inches or greater. A limited number of pair of children’s skis are available. A valid driver’s license or credit card is required as a deposit. Ski instruction is available by advanced registration at (216) 524-1497.</p> <p>There are miles of cross-country trails in the park suitable for all levels of skiers. Check with park staff for trails and areas that meet your ability level. Some suggested areas and trails include:</p> <p>Ledges Field - Adjacent to the Ledges Shelter off Truxell Road. Large, flat open field, excellent for beginners.</p> <p>Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail - 19.7 miles. Follows the historic Ohio & Erie Canal. Access points are located throughout the park. Flat, wide, easy multi-purpose trail.</p> <p>Cross Country Trail - 2.5 miles. Though multi-purpose in use, this trail was designed for cross-country skiing. Access points are Kendall Lake on Truxell Road and Little Meadow parking lot on Quick Road. This moderately difficult to difficult trail passes along mixed woods, old fields, and steep hills.</p> <p>Bike and Hike Trail - Follows old railroad and utility rights-of-way along the eastern border of</p>	<p>the park for 10 miles and many miles beyond. Straight, flat, wide, and maintained by the National Park Service, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, and Cleveland Metroparks. An especially scenic section of the Bike and Hike Trail is between State Route 303 and Boston Mills Road.</p> <p>Tree Farm Trail- 2.75 miles. Loop trail accessed at Horseshoe Pond on Major Road. Easy-to-moderate trail through open fields, across gently rolling hills, and into coniferous tree stands.</p> <p>Oak Hill Trail - 1.5 miles. Loop trail accessed at Oak Hill Trailhead on Oak Hill Road. Easy-to-moderate trail through open fields, past pond edges, and into mixed woods.</p> <p>Boston Run Trail - 3.5 miles. Follows the upper portion of Boston Run and its tributaries. Access from Happy Days Visitor Center North Parking Lot on State Route 303. Moderately difficult route with steep terrain through mixed woodlands.</p> <p>Old Carriage Trail - 5.25 miles from Red Lock Trailhead on Highland Road. 5.5 miles from Station Road Trailhead on Riverview Road. This moderately difficult 3.25-mile loop trail winds across and through deep, wooded ravines in the easter uplands of the Cuyahoga River valley, starting and finishing at the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.</p>
----------------------	---	--

Ice Fishing	Large-mouth bass, bluegill, and catfish are among the fish caught in CVNP lakes and ponds. Ice thickness is not monitored for ice fishing, so be extra careful when venturing onto the ice. Thin spots can occur on the ice, causing	it to become unstable. Fishing guidelines follow federal and state regulations. Ice fishing is not permitted on Kendall Lake until the ice depth is 7 inches. Call (216) 524-1497 to check ice depth.
-------------	--	---

Ice Skating	When ice thickness reaches 7 inches, a portion of Kendall Lake will be cleared for ice skating. To ensure safety on the ice, skate only on the section that has been cleared. A limited number	of pairs of skates are available for rent at the Winter Sports Center. Call (216) 524-1497 to check ice depth.
-------------	--	--

Sledding	Sledding is available at Kendall Hills on Quick Road, about 1 mile east of Akron-Peninsula Road. Parking is located at Pine Hollow, Crow Foot Gully, and Little Meadow parking lots. Separate areas are designated for sleds and	toboggans. Some areas are closed to sledding to prevent conflicts with cross-country ski trails. To prevent injury, follow posted regulations. In general, slide down the middle of the hills and walk back up the sides.
----------	--	---

Area Winter Sports Facilities	<p>Cleveland Metroparks offers snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice skating, sledding and tobogganing (for a fee at The Chalet at Mill Stream Run Reservation). For more information call their 24-hour line at (216) 351-6300.</p> <p>Brandywine Ski Resort, located on Highland Road east of Riverview Road, and Boston Mills Ski Resort, located on Riverview Road north of</p>	<p>State Route 303, offer downhill skiing, equipment rental, and instruction. For more information call (800) 875-4241.</p> <p>Metro Parks, Serving Summit County offers cross-country skiing, ice skating, sledding, and tobogganing. For more information call (330) 867-5511 or their 24-hour Seasonal Information Line at (330) 865-8060.</p>
-------------------------------	--	---